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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC



16th May 2026

TOPICS:-

1. Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle
2. Common Bronzeback
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8. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
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GANGES SOFT-SHELL TURTLE

TH The Hindu

[India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle released in Kaziranga](#)

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle, an endangered species, was released in the 1,302 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and...



Why in News

- India's first satellite-tagged **Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle** was released in **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam.**

Key Features

- The species is scientifically known as **Nilssononia gangetica.**
- It is among the world's largest freshwater turtle species.
- The turtle has a green oval-shaped carapace with a yellow border.
- Its long neck and tube-like snout help breathing while submerged underwater.



Habitat and Distribution

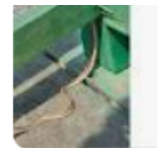
- The species inhabits rivers, streams, lakes, canals, and ponds with sandy bottoms.
- It is found **in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.**
- Major river basins include **Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Indus, Narmada, and Meghna.**
- The turtle spends most of its time buried under sand in turbid waters.

Ecology and Conservation

- It is an omnivorous species feeding on fish, insects, molluscs, and aquatic plants.
- Breeding generally occurs between **February and April.**
- Major threats include habitat destruction, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade.
- The species is listed as **Endangered** under the IUCN Red List.
- It receives protection under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

COMMON BRONZEBACK

Rare 'Common Bronzeback Tree Snake' Spotted In UP's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve



Lakhimpur Kheri: A rare species of snake, identified as the "Common Bronze-back Tree Snake", has been spotted in the Belrayan range of...

Why in News

- The **Common Bronzeback Tree Snake** was recently spotted in **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh**.

Species Profile

- It is a non-venomous arboreal snake scientifically known as **Dendrelaphis tristis**.
- Other names include **Indian Bronzeback Tree Snake** and **Daudin's Bronzeback**.
- The reptile has a slender body with a bronze-coloured stripe along the back.
- It possesses large eyes with rounded pupils and a distinct whitish spot on the head.

Habitat and Distribution

- The species occurs across **India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan**.
- It inhabits forests, Himalayan foothills, gardens, parks, and rural landscapes.
- The snake mainly prefers treetops rather than ground habitats.

Conservation Status

- The species is classified as **Least Concern** under the **IUCN Red List**.

ABHAY SYSTEM

THE Hindu

[CBI launches AI-powered notice verification system 'Abhay'](#)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices, a system...



Why in News

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** launched the AI-based **ABHAY** notice verification platform.

About the System

- **ABHAY** stands for **AI-Based Helpbot for Authentication of Your Notice**.
- It is India's first real-time verification platform for fake law-enforcement notices.
- The system aims to curb "digital arrest" and impersonation scams.

Working Mechanism

- Users can upload scanned copies of notices after OTP verification.
- The AI tool checks whether the document is genuine or fraudulent.
- The service is available through the official **CBI website** and dedicated portal.



Significance

- The initiative addresses misuse of fake notices, deepfakes, and AI-generated threats.
- It strengthens cyber fraud prevention and citizen awareness mechanisms.

COMMON CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CCDB)



PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > PressReleasePage

India Assumes Chair of Common Criteria Development ... ✓

3 days ago — The CCDB serves as the technical core of the CCRA, managing the international work program for the Common Criteria (CC) and the Common ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- India was nominated as Chair of the **Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for 2026–2028.

About CCDB and CCRA

- CCDB is the **technical body** of the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA)**.
- CCRA enables international recognition of IT security certification standards.
- India became a member of CCRA on **16 September 2013** as a Certificate Authorizing Nation.

Indian Agencies and Functions

- **MeitY** and **STQC Directorate** act as nodal agencies in India.
- The board manages the **Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM)** framework.
- It also maintains the global **Common Criteria Portal** for certified IT products.
- The arrangement includes **20 certificate-authorizing** and **18 certificate-consuming nations**.

NETHERLANDS



PM Modi Gets Rousing Welcome In Netherlands

PM Modi Gets Rousing Welcome In Netherlands As 'Modi, Modi' Chants Echo In The Hague.



Why in News

- The Prime Minister of India recently visited the **Netherlands** during his five-nation tour.
- **Geographical Features**
- The country is located in **Northwestern Europe**.
- It shares borders with **Germany and Belgium**.
- The nation is bounded by the **North Sea** in the north and west.
- **Amsterdam** is the capital city.



Physical and Economic Features

- Major rivers include the **Rhine, Meuse (Maas), and Scheldt**.
- **Ijsselmeer** is the largest freshwater lake.
- **Vaalserberg** is the highest point of the country.
- The Netherlands possesses one of the world's largest natural gas reserves.

Important International Institutions

- **The Hague** hosts the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** and the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WING (RAW)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah calls for global war against narcotics

At the annual lecture series held by Research and Analysis Wing in honour of its founder Rameshwar Nath Kao, Union Home Minister Amit Shah...



Why in News

- The Home Minister addressed the **R N Kao Memorial Lecture-2026** organised by **R&AW**.

About RAW

- **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)** is India's external intelligence agency.
- It was established in **1968** after the 1962 and 1965 wars.
- **Rameshwar Nath Kao** was the first chief of the organisation.
- The headquarters is located in **New Delhi**.



Functions and Authority

- The agency handles counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and external intelligence gathering.
- It collects military, economic, scientific, and political intelligence.
- RAW directly functions **under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.
- Its operations and budget remain classified due to national security concerns.

CHAPRALA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

[Irrigation Engineers Fix Alignment, Helping Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary at Pranahita-Chevella Barrage...](#)

Irrigation engineers of Telangana involved in the works say that they have fixed the alignment in such a way that the barrage construction...



Why in News

- Telangana stated that the **Pranahita-Chevella barrage** project will not submerge **Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Location and Features

- The sanctuary is located in **Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra**.
- It lies near the confluence of the **Wardha** and **Wainganga** rivers.
- The **Pranahita River** flows along its western boundary.
- The region supports southern tropical dry deciduous forests and grasslands.



Biodiversity

- Major flora include **teak, mahua, arjun, salai, tendu, and semal**.
- Important fauna include tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, and blackbuck.

- The sanctuary also supports aquatic biodiversity including turtles, prawns, and fishes.
- The area is inhabited by the indigenous **Gond tribal community**.

Pranahita River

- The river is a major tributary of the **Godavari**.
- It is formed by the confluence of the **Wardha** and **Wainganga** rivers.
- The river drains large parts of the **Vidarbha** region and southern **Satpura** ranges.



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

DD News

[India pushes telecom leadership at ITU Council meet, eyes hosting rights for PP-2030](#)

India strengthened its position in the global telecommunications and digital policy landscape during the International Telecommunication...



Why in News

- India strengthened its role during the **ITU Council 2026** meeting in Geneva.

About ITU

- ITU is the **United Nations specialised agency** for telecommunications and ICT.
- It was established in **1865** as the **International Telegraph Union**.
- It became a UN specialised agency in **1947**.
- The headquarters is located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Governance and India

- The **ITU Council** consists of **48 elected member states**.
- India has been an ITU member since **1869**.
- India has continuously served on the ITU Council since **1952**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Science and
Technology

EBOLA

... BBC

[WHO declares Ebola outbreak in DR Congo an international emergency](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo a public health emergency of...



Why in News

- A fresh **Ebola outbreak** was reported in the **Ituri province** of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Disease Profile

- Ebola is a severe viral disease caused by **orthoebolaviruses**.
- It affects both humans and non-human primates.
- The disease was first identified in **1976** in Sudan and Congo.
- Ebola is classified as a **haemorrhagic fever** due to internal bleeding symptoms.

Transmission and Symptoms

- The virus spreads **through direct contact with infected bodily fluids**.
- Wild animals such **as fruit bats and primates** act as carriers.
- Ebola does not spread through air transmission.
- Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, bleeding, and organ failure.

Treatment and Fatality

- The incubation period ranges from **2 to 21 days**.
- Average fatality rate is nearly **50%**, though past outbreaks reached 90%.
- There is no universally approved cure for the disease.
- Early supportive care improves chances of survival.

Places in
News

UTURUNCU VOLCANO

... The Times of India

[Scientists looked inside Bolivia's zombie volcano, and the reality eased everyone's fears](#)

Science News: A breakthrough study reveals that Bolivia's Mount Uturuncu, dubbed a zombie volcano, is more complex than previously thought,...



Why in News

- Scientists reported renewed magma movement beneath **Uturuncu Volcano** in Bolivia.

Location and Characteristics

- The volcano is located in southwestern **Bolivia** within the **Andes Mountains**.
- It is called a “zombie volcano” due to activity despite long dormancy.
- Uturuncu is a stratovolcano dominated by dacitic lava domes.
- It stands at about **6,008 metres** above sea level.



Geological Features

- The volcano last erupted nearly **250,000 years ago**.
- Beneath it lies the massive **Altiplano-Puna Magma Body**.
- The region displays a distinct “sombbrero” uplift pattern.
- Hundreds of minor earthquakes are recorded annually around the volcano.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

UTTAR PRADESH ‘VISIT MY STATE’ CAMPAIGN

UP Govt Announces ‘Visit My State’ Campaign, Pushes Heritage Weddings & Free Museum Entry To Boost Tourism

UP govt has launched the 'Visit My State' campaign with free museum entry, heritage wedding promotion, and new tourism packages for Ayodhya,...



Why in News?

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** launched the ‘**Visit My State**’ campaign to boost domestic tourism, promote heritage destinations, and **encourage visitors** to explore cultural, religious, and eco-tourism sites across the state.

Key Points:

- Campaign Launch: The ‘Visit My State’ campaign was launched by the **Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department** as part of a broader strategy to strengthen domestic tourism and local economic activity.
 - Under the initiative, state-run museums across Uttar Pradesh will provide free entry to children and families for two months.

- Tourism Circuits: The government plans to develop **destination-based travel packages** covering major tourist centres such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, Agra, Mathura, Prayagraj, Lucknow, and Mirzapur.
- Key Heritage Sites: Chunar Fort and Chhattar Manzil are being prepared as major venues for weddings, cultural events, and tourism activities.
 - The campaign also focuses on promoting **temple circuits**, gaushala tourism, wellness tourism, and rural tourism experiences.
- Objective: The initiative aims to increase tourist footfall, generate employment, support local artisans and businesses, and strengthen Uttar Pradesh's position as a major tourism destination in India.